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RIDE, Higher Education preview Rhode Island DataHub
New central resource brings together data across all school levels

The R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) and the R.I. Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) today provided a preview of the Rhode Island DataHub, a new central resource that brings together student data on educational achievement, demographics, health, and student-risk factors across the entire education spectrum, from prekindergarten through college.

The DataHub allows researchers, educators, and the general public to view and to analyze data about student achievement in school, about retention and graduation rates, and about success upon graduation.

The DataHub provides a set of tools to allow users to develop and save their own data reports on a wide range of topics. It also includes several developed reports and "data stories," including reports on student bullying and on chronic absenteeism. The team from RIDE and RIGBHE will develop and post more reports in the coming months, including reports on graduation rates and school finances.

 "For many years, Rhode Island has collected a wide range of data about student health, student achievement, and student progress, but until now we have not drawn the data together from across state agencies," said Governor Lincoln D. Chafee. "The DataHub provides us with a complete, in-depth view of how well we are serving our students in school and what steps we need to take to prepare all students for success."

"The DataHub is a wise investment that has brought together the resources and expertise from a number of state agencies to focus on the best interest of Rhode Island students," said George D. Caruolo, Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. "We will use the resources in the DataHub to guide decisions about education policies and practices as we work to transform education in our state."

"As we strive to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for our students, the Rhode Island DataHub has the capacity to supply ground-breaking associations and analyses that could drive innovative policies and practices in our state," said Lorne Adrain, Chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

 "One of the top priorities in our strategic plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island,* is to develop user-friendly data systems such as the Rhode Island DataHub," said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Our goal is to ensure that, through the DataHub, Rhode Island educators and all friends of education have access to accurate, real-time student data that will help promote continuous improvement of teaching and learning."

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"The Rhode Island DataHub is an essential resource for our state," said Ray M. Di Pasquale, Commissioner of Higher Education. "It provides actionable, cohort-level data for post-secondary educators in the state as they strive to meet the needs of students who are entering our doors in higher education. Through the dedicated work of both partnering agencies, Rhode Island has emerged as a national leader in this area, and we expect the results will improve our students' readiness for college and careers."

Commissioners Gist and Di Pasquale previewed the DataHub today (June 8) before a meeting of invited political leaders, education stakeholders, and the media.

The DataHub includes data from RIDE and RIBGHE as well as from other local, state, and federal agencies, including the Providence Public Schools; the R.I. Department of Children, Youth, and Families; the R.I. Department of Health; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control; and the U.S. Census.

Funding for the DataHub project has come from RIDE, RIBGHE, the Department of Health, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation Making Connections Providence initiative. The project got under way in April 2009, and the total cost of the project over that three-year period has been approximately $620,000, largely in federal funds.

The Rhode Island DataHub was designed and developed by The Providence Plan. The Providence Plan currently houses and maintains the database system and website.

The Rhode Island DataHub is accessible at:

http://www.ridatahub.org/